



The STRIPES Communiqué is one of the many ways you will receive information and progress updates about the STRIPES Project. If you did not receive this communiqué via e-mail and would like to be added to the STRIPES mailing list, send an e-mail to STRIPES@hq.doe.gov with the word “subscribe” in the subject line.

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The STRIPES Project Team has made a longstanding commitment to be open with its stakeholders, maintain communication channels for your input, and to provide you with timely and useful information. We have worked hard to honor that commitment, no matter how difficult the message. In January we announced a 5-6 week project delay needed to enhance the STARS/STRIPES interface. Representatives across DOE acted collaboratively over the holidays and determined a delay would be the best course of action for the Department. The STRIPES stakeholders did not miss a beat and we were able to realign the implementation of the acquisition and financial assistance modules. The enhancements were made and we have moved forward successfully.

Perhaps you have heard of the triumphs and trials of STRIPES' first Deployment at Headquarters from your colleagues over the last few weeks. Or you are a future user (or manager) anxiously awaiting your turn. While the system is working as designed, the users have received training, the network is supporting the software, and the communications have been distributed, there have been challenges in establishing existing contracts in STRIPES due to data inconsistencies found in STARS, FPDS-NG, and the official contract file, also known as “contract reconstruction.” As we move to a highly integrated environment, these data inconsistencies had to be addressed during the transition and have taken longer to resolve than expected. As a result, project resources are being dedicated to assist in remedying the data inconsistencies. To use an analogy, STRIPES is like a car which needs fuel to run. The contract and grant data is like the fuel that makes the car run. If the fuel contains impurities, the car will not run well, perhaps not at all. And one of the main objectives of beginning the implementation of STRIPES at Headquarters is to ensure we get off to as good a start as possible.

Furthermore, it has become evident that the DOE community may require additional training support than what has been provided at other Agencies. The STRIPES project resources have been refocused to support Headquarters and the first Sites that will constitute our FY 2008. This will establish a more stable foundation for STRIPES from which future actions and deployments can be accomplished.

Therefore, the STRIPES and iManage Team have decided to defer deployment efforts beyond Headquarters, the Naval Reactors Office (NR), the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Office (SPRO), and the Office of Repository Management (RW). This will provide the remaining Sites an opportunity to complete the tedious, yet necessary, task of data clean-up, as well as provide additional training support to all members of the acquisition workforce.

This is why it is imperative for future STRIPES Sites to do the following:

1. Check your contract files against the data in STARS, PADS, and FPDS-NG
 - a. Make changes in FPDS-NG when the data conflicts with the official contract file, since that data flows to PADS; which flows to STRIPES;
 - b. Make necessary changes in STARS when a conflict exists between the official contract file, since the financial validations check for matching data. This will require coordination with the finance office;
 - c. Obligation dollar amounts must match; mod numbers must be consistent, etc.; and,
 - d. DUNS numbers are needed for all instruments in STRIPES.
2. Take full advantage of your Mock Reconstruction activities. Use the Mock Reconstructions to identify your data discrepancies and make those changes in the appropriate system(s). Mock reconstruction participation also provides additional hands-on training in STRIPES.
3. Make a determination of which files you want to be reconstructed in STRIPES. Focus on those files and prioritize to clean that data.
4. Oak Ridge Financial Service Center staff will continue their efforts for the vendor/supplier clean adding to the several thousand records that they have already reconciled.
5. Discuss the available training with your users and determine if classroom training is needed beyond that being provided to the contracting office staff. If it's needed, it is the responsibility of the Site to obtain that training. The project team can share the additional material that has been developed for training related to micro-purchases and drafting requisitions.

The Department is counting on your active support to work on improving these data issues with focus and rigor. A significant amount of institutional memory resides in every STRIPES user. Your knowledge of DOE contracts and grant awards and modifications needs to be captured to get STRIPES running smoothly. This seasoned workforce has grown up with the Department and has done a fine job making things work for our Government. Now we ask that you diligently take the time to confirm the data in order for STRIPES' future implementations to be more efficient.

More information on the data clean-up needs will be provided by the STRIPES Project Team. We wanted to take the time to inform you of our latest decision and what we need from you. As a community we have been faced with similar challenges and successfully resolved them. Working together, we can overcome this challenge as well.

The revised deployment schedule will be collaboratively established by the end of July 2008 for the remaining Sites that will be deferred in to FY 2009. The goal is to provide adequate time to stabilize Headquarters and the three initial field Sites on STRIPES while allowing the remaining Sites to proactively clean their data.

The STRIPES project team will continue to work closely with Site Deployment Managers (SDMs), Site Training Coordinators, the Site Points of Contacts (SPOCs), field Chief Financial Officers, and Procurement Directors to work out next steps and the updated schedule.

Your continued support and patience in making this significant transition throughout the Department is greatly appreciated. The project team is committed to your success.

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